



**CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
COUNCILMEMBER SHERRI S. LIGHTNER  
DISTRICT ONE**

**COUNCILMEMBER CARL DEMAIO  
DISTRICT FIVE**

**MEMORANDUM**

DATE: May 17, 2010 DTID: SL1005-005

TO: Richard Earnest, Chairman, San Dieguito River Valley Regional Open Space  
Park Joint Powers Authority

FROM: Councilmember Sherri S. Lightner *Sherri S. Lightner*  
Councilmember Carl DeMaio *Carl DeMaio*

SUBJECT: Request to the JPA Board for Budget Direction to Staff

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As a result of the City of San Diego (City) eliminating General Fund contributions to the San Dieguito River Valley Regional Open Space Park Joint Powers Authority (JPA), our offices have been working with the City Attorney, Mayor's office and JPA staff to find ways to restore the City's contributions from another source. To date, a source to restore the City's contribution to the JPA for the rest of this fiscal year and Fiscal Year 2011 has not been identified.

We realize the value and importance of the River Park's operations and will continue to investigate possible ways to restore City contributions to the JPA.

During the last five months we have also had many discussions with City officials, the JPA Board and JPA subcommittee members to identify ways to help eliminate the budget gap with cuts to various areas of the JPA budget. To date, the actions that have been taken have not been sufficient to address the FY 2011 budget deficit.

We recommend the JPA Board take stronger actions to fill the gap in the operating budget and make up for the current projected shortfall for FY 2011 without using reserve funds to fill the deficit.

In light of the JPA's current and future projected budget deficit and difficult economic times for the City and other member agencies, we would like to request the JPA Board (with appropriate

legal counsel) consider the following actions at the upcoming May 21, 2010 meeting to help solve the JPA's FY 2011 budget deficit and ensure the organization's future:

1. Direct staff to take the legally required vote that would determine whether they continue their enrollment in the "Retirement - CERS program" or enroll in an alternative program that would have less of a financial impact on the JPA operating budget.
2. Reduce or eliminate the employer offset to the "Retirement – CERS" budget line-item to lessen the financial impact on the operating budget.
3. Direct staff to report back in 60 days with a business reorganization plan that includes the following:
  - a. A salary reduction for the Executive Director (ED) and/or the Deputy Director (DD)
  - b. Splitting the Deputy Director's (DD) responsibilities with the ED
  - c. Adding "Development" to the DD's responsibilities - the purpose of which is to develop a strong private fundraising program
  - d. Keeping the Environmental Planner position at  $\frac{3}{4}$  time
4. Direct staff to bring back a true zero-based budget (as discussed in the February 19, 2010 JPA meeting) within the next 30 days with recommendations on a revised FY 2011 budget to be adopted in July. The budget should also include an examination of options for further reducing line items such as 52062 "Telephone/cell/fax/satellite service" and 51415 "Retire Other Post Retirement (Health Supplement)".
5. Establish a maximum for accrued vacation which is 1.5 times the annual vacation allotment, (allowing a 6 month transition period).
6. Direct staff to develop a reserve fund to pay off accrued vacation leave when employees leave the JPA, to pay for new vehicles as current vehicles age, and for other liabilities that may arise.
7. Direct staff to develop a plan within the next six months to establish a self-sustaining budget by Fiscal Year 2013 that provides adequate funding for the JPA to operate without significant member agency contributions.
8. Direct staff to bring back an updated review of the current member agency population, land ownership within the JPA Focused Planning Area, identification of park users and possible additional data to update the JPA contribution formula, including:
  - a. Adding the 22<sup>nd</sup> District Agricultural Association (22<sup>nd</sup> DAA) as a full member with a member contribution assessment
  - b. Three scenarios of an updated member agency contribution formula

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With the above direction, it is our goal for the JPA to provide the same important services without reducing staff to provide those services. With a comprehensive approach that considers the above measures, we feel the JPA will become a more financially sustainable organization.

We appreciate your consideration of our request. Please do not hesitate to contact either of our offices with any questions you may have.

SL: sh  
CD: ta:jl

cc: San Dieguito River Valley Regional Open Space Park JPA Board of Directors  
Dick Bobertz, Executive Director, San Dieguito River Valley Regional Open Space Park JPA  
Gerry Braun, Director of Special Projects, Office of Mayor Jerry Sanders